

From: James Russell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 9:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I was a user of Windows 98 from 1998 until just last year. I witnessed first-hand how hard Microsoft made it for me to choose Netscape. Indeed, at one point I did give up Netscape for IE just because it was simpler. I know use Windows XP, and have been nearly forced into using Microsoft's Passport service, which I don't think is secure, forced into having IE, MSN Explorer, Windows Media Player, Windows Messenger, you name it, I've been forced to install it. What angers me most, though, is that Microsoft has made Windows more bloated and less secure by making me install the IE code (Go to www.news.com and search for "IE" and "security" and you'll see what I mean.), and it makes me angry that I must suffer these security holes because Microsoft wants IE on my computer whether I like it or not.

Forcing Microsoft to ship a fully clean version of Windows is absolutely necessary to restore competition where there now is none, on the Microsoft desktop. Moreover, OEMs need to be assured that Microsoft cannot penalize them for choosing this version of Windows. Microsoft should market this version equally as aggressively as Windows 2000 Home, Professional, or their descendants for a period of no less than 10 years. The price of this "Windows Lite" should be lower than the standard version of Windows enough to compensate for A) the amount of code removed and B) the percentage of features removed from the interface.

Further, Microsoft should no longer be able to dictate to any OEM whether a dual-boot operating system can be released on that OEM's systems in any way, nor can they be penalized, threatened, or coerced into dropping deals with Microsoft's competitors. This moratorium should be in effect for 10 years with an option for an additional 5-10 years at the court's discretion.

James Russell